

GOLDEN MEADOW

LOCATION: The eastern boundary of this EMU is the South Lafourche Levee system. The southern, western, and northern boundaries of the EMU are a series of canals and the Raccourci EMU boundary.

SOILS: Generally brackish marsh soils having organic layers of various thicknesses subject to very high subsidence and flooding.

VEGETATION: That typical of brackish marshes.

SUBSIDENCE POTENTIAL IF DRAINED: Very High due to the nature of the soil. Subsidence has also occurred to a large extent as a result of water and mineral extraction.

LAND LOSS POTENTIAL DUE TO CHANNEL CONSTRUCTION: High. Intensive channelization projects related to the oil and gas industries have resulted in widening of canals over time. Erosion and land loss of marsh land can be traced to current and wave wash created by boat traffic and greater tidal influence. A study by N. J. Craig and J. W. Day, Jr. (1977) showed total canal area for three years:

Year	Total Acres
1940	58.2
1953	80.6
1969	119.6

TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES: Original marsh lands altered by numerous canals related to the Golden Meadow Oil and Gas Field. The area has a levee four (4) feet in height separating it from the Town of Golden Meadow. Spoil banks are found along some canals. Trails and shell roads two to four feet high lead to numerous oil and gas wells. In general, the land has an elevation less than one foot MSL. At one time this land was higher, but it has subsided.

FLOODING POTENTIAL: The entire area is flood prone.

IMPORTANT FARMLANDS: None.

USE OF LAND: The area is entirely devoted to resource extraction.

DATA ON GOLDEN MEADOW GIL FIELD: First oil well drilled - 1938 Texaco Oil Company: Number of oil wells drilled - 637 Oil Production Peaked - 1967

Life of well - Liquids 9.6 years Gas 8.7 years

More drilling is anticipated in the next few years

The extreme channelization of the marshlands and natural levee in this unit, accompanied by saltwater intrusion, has led to the development of a new estuarine system. The area is now a very productive nursery for various aquatic species.

UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL FEATURES: None.

RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL: Fishing, and other secondary contact recreation is good. Some road access is located along oil and gas company roads. Boat launches are available in the Golden Meadow area.

HYDROLOGIC RESOURCES: No potable water. Water uses are limited to fish and wildlife propagation. Saltwater intrusion into former freshwater areas resulting from rapid exchange of water is an increasing problem. The increased exchange is due to channelization.

HISTORIC/CULTURAL/ARCHEOLOGICAL

A. Historic Sites: The Golden Meadow Oil and Gas Field was one of the first developed in this area in 1938. Oil production in this field peaked in 1967.

B. Cultural: None.

C. Archeological Sites: None.

GOALS

1. Reduce erosion by protecting Catfish Lake from enlarging into Golden Meadow marshes
2. Protect new South Lafourche levee system by use of spoil to reduce erosion and saltwater intrusion
3. Encourage the creation of new marsh with spoil dredged for new canals
4. Encourage use of existing waterways to avoid cutting up the area any further

POLICIES FOR GOLDEN MEADOW;

The Golden Meadow EMU. is a severely deteriorated brackish -saline marsh now largely water due to the numerous oil and gas access canals dug in the past in the area. The South Lafourche Levee provides an eastern barrier to expansion of the water area. To the west is Catfish Lake and Area A of Raccoon EMU Policies there are aimed at containing this eroded area.

POLICY 1. All General Policies for the Lafourche Coastal Zone shall apply in this EMU unless modified by specific EMU or sub EMU policies stated in this EMU policy statement.

POLICY 2. 411 canals intersecting with the Plaisance Canal should have plugs placed near their mouths as per the Lafourche General Policies by imposing mitigation conditions on permits near the area.

POLICY 3. All north - south canals dredged in this EMU should have spoil placed on the east bank so as to retard the spreading eroding area of access canals.

POLICY 4. No connections between existing canals should be made unless these connections are plugged at both ends after activities are completed. These connections must also be justified as the only economically feasible way of accomplishing the requested permit activity task.

POLICY 5. All canals except the Plaisance Canal should be sealed off from Catfish Lake with dams as per the Lafourche General Policies. These dams should be constructed by imposing mitigation conditions on permit applicants nearby to the dam sites.

POLICY 6. Permanent human habitation dwellings should be discouraged throughout this EMU. due to severe flooding potential from storms and lack of adequate water and sewerage facilities. Any permits associated with recreational or any other type of permanent dwellings shall require adequate on site sewerage and proof of compliance with solid waste disposal and collection regulations of Lafourche Parish.

Besides these guidelines, all coastal use guidelines as stated in the F.E.I.S. of the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program shall apply to this EMU

Where EMU policies refer to a "use of state concern", the policies are intended only as recommendations to the state Program managers and are not legally binding on the permit applicant or the state CMD program.
